



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

4 OCTOBER 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Menlo Park – Facebook Advertising Tool Exploited by Russian Operatives during Presidential Race

(U) Russians meddling in the 2016 US presidential race used a Facebook advertising tool to send targeted messages to social media users based off of their browsing histories, according to a newly published report. Russian operatives exploited Facebook's "Custom Audiences" feature in order to specifically target account holders assumed to be susceptible to propaganda. Users who browsed the misleading news sites were tracked with "cookies" that were then fed into the Facebook tool and used to connect visitors to their respective Facebook accounts.

SOURCE: 3 October 2017, [Washington Times](#)

(U) Mountain View – Google Warns of Vulnerabilities in Open Source Software

(U) Google researchers identified seven flaws in a popular open-source software called Dnsmasq and has called on vendors to patch the vulnerability. Dnsmasq is included in popular desktop programs, home routers, Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and for tethering of smartphones and portable hotspots. The vulnerabilities can be triggered remotely via domain name system and dynamic host configuration protocol that could lead to remote code execution, information exposure, and denial of service conditions.

SOURCE: 3 October 2017, [Threat Post](#)

(U) Sunnyvale – Yahoo Increases Number of Compromised Accounts to 3 Billion

(U) All 3 billion of Yahoo's users as of 2013 were affected by a data theft the company originally said had only affected 1 billion users, parent company Verizon said yesterday, making the breach the largest in history. The additional data theft victims came to light as Yahoo was being integrated with Verizon. Yahoo said the attackers stole the user information from its system in August 2013, but did not know who was behind the theft or when they gained entry to its network.

SOURCE: 3 October 2017, [USA Today](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Indiana – Columbus Couple 'Major Players' in Local Drug Trade, Have Ties to Cartels

(U) Columbus – Police recently concluded a multi-year investigation into local methamphetamine dealing, resulting in the arrest of a husband and wife whom authorities described as "major players" in the local methamphetamine trade, with ties to drug cartels operating from Mexico. In the last 18 months, police have arrested a dozen associates of the defendants on narcotics charges, seizing more than 30 pounds of meth and \$300,000 in cash.

SOURCE: 4 October 2017, [Fox News](#)

(U) Michigan – Gang Leader Pleads Guilty to Leading Widespread Drug Distribution

(U) Bay City – A ringleader of Saginaw's Sunny Side Gang responsible for large-scale heroin and cocaine distribution recently pleaded guilty to drug trafficking charges. In all, the defendant and his associates allegedly distributed at least 1,000 grams of heroin, 0.78 grams of fentanyl, 711.65 grams of cocaine,

and 127.91 grams of base cocaine throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region. Law enforcement had been investigating the defendant for several years, resulting in the dismantling of a major part of the area's drug trafficking trade.

SOURCE: 4 October 2017, [MLive News](#)

(U) Washington – Gang Members Charged with Child Sex-Trafficking in Prostitution Operation

(U) Tacoma – Seven members of the Tillicum Park Gangsters street gang were charged with crimes related to human trafficking yesterday as part of a child sexual-exploitation ring centered in Tacoma and Lakewood, Washington. Five of the suspects have been arrested, but two remain at large. Prosecutors said the 15 victims—including a 13-year-old—were forced to engage in prostitution in Tacoma, Lakewood, Olympia, Lacey, and Bellingham from the summer of 2016 through last month.

SOURCE: 3 October 2017, [Q13 News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Belgium – Russia Targets NATO Soldier Smartphones, Western Officials Say

(U) Brussels – Troops, officers, and government officials of NATO member countries said Russia has carried out a campaign to compromise soldiers' smartphones. The aim, they say, is to gain operational information, gauge troop strength, and intimidate soldiers. Russian officials deny that Moscow stages such attacks. The campaign has targeted the contingent of 4,000 NATO troops deployed this year to Poland and the Baltic states to protect NATO's European border with Russia amid growing tensions.

SOURCE: 4 October 2017, [Wall Street Journal](#)

(U) Canada – Man Charged with Fentanyl Pill Trafficking

(U) Richmond – Royal Canadian Mounted Police announced yesterday that Canadian citizen Yan Chau (Andrew) Lam, 48, is facing numerous drug charges after his apartment was found to contain 40,000 fentanyl pills and a one-kilogram brick of methamphetamine, following a search warrant executed in February 2016. US Customs and Border Protection officers previously seized 130 kilograms of cocaine from suitcases owned by Lam at the Los Angeles/Long Beach seaport, leading to his arrest.

SOURCE: 3 October 2017, [Richmond News](#)

(U) France – French Authorities Suspect 4 People of Helping Killer in Marseille

(U) Paris – French authorities yesterday detained four people suspected of helping a man who stabbed to death two women in the southern port city of Marseille earlier this week. The four are being held in custody on suspicion of criminal association with a terrorist, and several locations have been searched as part of the investigation. The development came on the same day the French Parliament approved a security law intended to strengthen police and intelligence capacity in fighting the extremist threat.

SOURCE: 4 October 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Syria – Russia Claims to have Critically Injured Militant Leader in Syria

(U) Russia announced today that it had critically injured Abu Mohamad al-Golani—a militant leader who was the head of the Nusra Front before it merged with other groups to form Tahrir al-Sham—in an air strike that also killed 12 of his field commanders. Nusra Front severed ties with al-Qa'ida last year and rebranded to head the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham alliance. Around 50 of Golani's bodyguards and 12 Nusra Front field commanders were killed in the same air strike, including the head of the militant group's security service.

SOURCE: 4 October 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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